

Alaska FASD Partnership - Steering Committee
Wednesday, November 12, 2014 – MINUTES (Draft)

Introductions – Monica Leinberger (Bethel), Vickie Tinker (Frontier Community Services, Kenai), Jenn Wagaman (Alaska Center for Children and Adults, Fairbanks), Amy Hansen (Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse), Dr. Phil Mattheis (Frontier Community Services, Kenai), Sean O'Brien (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Juneau), Deb Evensen (FASD Consultant), Teri Tibbett (Alaska Mental Health Board (AMHB) and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ABADA)).

Approval of agenda. Approved.

Approval of minutes (10.8.14). Approved.

FASD Family Voice Forum - Teri reported the conference in Juneau is morphing into a forum funded by AMHB-ABADA's Family Voice project as a vehicle to bring individuals and families affected by FASD to Juneau to learn advocacy skills and meet with legislators. The hope, also, is to also bring experts to Juneau participate in the forum and do on-site training in the community. It was discussed that Teri could work with Vickie and Dr. Phil to coordinate efforts (they are working on a similar "mini-conference" in Kenai for February, see below).

Member Updates

Jenn just finished their fall *FASD Into Action* class, 5-6 families finished the eight-week course. They've ordered the *Living With FASD* materials to add to their resource library. They are thinking about having an *Aging Into Adulthood* talking group. She's receiving lots of calls to provide training for providers of services for adults in Fairbanks.

Dr. Phil is working with Frontier Community Services, DJJ in Kenai, and others to put on a mini-conference there that will focus on FASD, TBI, and trauma, with one goal being to build capacity for foster families to deal with FASD. Also, they're working on a diagnostic model that recognizes trauma and brain injury. Another goal is to have model for regional conferences that can be replicated in other places.

Deb Evensen offered updates about Kenai and Anchorage school districts. Kenai is starting their FASD "think tank" that address system-wide challenges and challenges in the classroom. Also, there are new and ongoing parent groups sponsored by the school districts in Kenai/Soldotna and Anchorage that are going very well. Both districts are building "system strength" and "sustainability" by working with the "leaders within the system who really understanding FASD," with the goal of developing the deeper systemic understanding that is needed to "see real change." Both districts are giving Deb (FASD consultant for both districts) free reign to work on it.

Monica reported the Bethel FASD diagnostic team is struggling, the new substance abuse treatment center burned down, and one of her former students committed suicide. She said Bethel is feeling dark these days. Dr. Phil added "all the more reason to do the work needed to recognize the damage trauma does."

Other Announcements

- Teri asked if anyone objected to sending letters of support for other Alaskans potential induction into the NOFAS Hall of Fame, specifically Judge Mike Jeffery and Deb Evensen. No objection.
- Monica suggested the Partnership send a letter to newspapers and/or other venues acknowledging the accomplishments of Judge Jeffery related to FASD. Teri said she can work on that.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 10, 2014